

Divers
conducting
research

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and habitat.

Types of MPAs

California uses three MPA classifications: **state marine conservation area** (SMCA), **state marine park** (SMP), and **state marine reserve** (SMR). On the central coast there is also a **state marine recreational management area** (SMRMA).

Approved Central Coast MPAs

In April 2007, the California Fish and Game Commission approved MPAs along the central coast, representing 204 square miles (18%) of state waters in the study region with about 85 of those miles (7.5%) designated as “no-take” state marine reserves.

MLPA Study Regions

MLPA implementation has been split into five separate study regions: **North Coast** (Oregon/CA border to Alder Creek/Point Arena), **North Central Coast** (Alder Creek/Point Arena to Pigeon Point), **San Francisco Bay**, **Central Coast** (Pigeon Point to Point Conception), and **South Coast** (Point Conception to U.S./Mexico border).

Public input is important in the MLPA process. You are invited to...

- Attend public meetings, or watch them (live and archived) on the Web.
- Add yourself to the mailing list.
- Comment on draft documents.
- Send comments (e-mail or written).

To learn more about the MLPA process visit: www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa

MLPA Contact Information

E-mail: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 654-1885



Help stop poaching and polluting.
1-888-DFG-CALTIP
(1-888-334-2258)



Sustainable
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Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call (916) 653-6420 or California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing impaired from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.



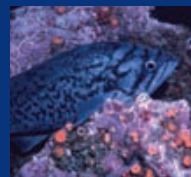
Cyclists enjoying the
central California coast.

Become
involved
with the
current
MLPA
process in
the North
Central
Coast!



Marine Life Protection Act

Marine Protected Areas of
California's Central Coast
(Pigeon Point to Point Conception)



08/07 MLPA Central Coast



Lone Cypress on
17-Mile Drive through
Pacific Grove and
Pebble Beach (in
Monterey County).

California Department of Fish and Game

Central Coast MPA Regulations

Note: This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in Title 14, California Code of Regulations

MPA	Permitted/Prohibited Uses
Natural Bridges, Elkhorn Slough, Moro Cojo Slough, Lovers Point, Asilomar, Carmel Pinnacles, Point Sur, Big Creek, Piedras Blancas, Morro Bay, Point Buchon, Vandenberg SMRs	No recreational or commercial take allowed.
Point Lobos SMR	No recreational or commercial take allowed. Portions of this MPA are subject to State Park access rules.
Big Creek SMR	No recreational or commercial take allowed. No anchoring shallower than 10 fathoms.
Año Nuevo SMCA	No recreational take allowed. Allows commercial take of giant kelp by hand.
Greyhound Rock SMCA	Allows recreational take of giant kelp by hand, squid, salmon, and by hook and line from shore only other finfish. Allows commercial take of salmon, squid and giant kelp by hand.
Elkhorn Slough SMCA	Allows recreational take of clams and finfish by hook and line only. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in area adjacent to Moss Landing State Wildlife Area.
Soquel Canyon and Portuguese Ledge SMCAs	Allows recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish. ¹
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA	Allows recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Allows commercial take of giant and bull kelp by hand in specifically defined areas.
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA	Allows recreational take of finfish. Allows commercial take of giant and bull kelp by hand.
Carmel Bay SMCA	Allows recreational take of finfish. Allows commercial take of giant and bull kelp.
Point Lobos SMCA	Allows recreational take of salmon and albacore. Allows commercial take of salmon, albacore and spot prawn.
Point Sur, Big Creek, Piedras Blancas and Point Buchon SMCAs	Allows recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore only.
Cambria SMCA	Allows all recreational take. No commercial take allowed.
White Rock (Cambria) SMCA	No recreational take allowed. Allows commercial take of giant and bull kelp by hand.
Morro Bay SMRMA	No recreational or commercial take allowed in southern areas. Certain recreational and commercial take allowed in northern area.

¹ Pelagic finfish as defined by California Fish and Game Commission regulations.

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities, such as diving, surfing, swimming and boating are allowed within the MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed.

Summaries of individual Central Coast MPA boundaries, coordinates and allowed uses as well as MPA specific maps are available at www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa. Information may also be obtained from your local California Department of Fish and Game office.

Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

